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COMMONWEALTH BUREAU OF CENSUS AND STATISTICS

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CEREAL HARVEST FORECAST

SOUTH AUSTRALIA

1960/61

The estimated acreages and yields set out in this bulletin are based on reports from 4,100 farmers whose crops represent a major proportion of the total cereals grown in the State.

AREAS AND YIELDS (SUMMARY)

Estimates of total areas sown to wheat, barley and oats for the 1960/61 season are included in Table 1 below. The estimate for wheat represents an increase over the intended sowing as reported last March, whereas the estimates for barley and oats show a decline. Intended sowings for wheat, barley and oats as previously reported were 1,925,992; 1,582,953 and 1,032,596 acres respectively.

The combined yield estimate for wheat, barley and oats, shown in Table 1, is 100,089,000 bushels; 18,400,000 bushels (22.5 per cent) greater than the record established in the 1958/59 season.

Further comments regarding individual crops are given below under the heading "Cereal Harvests".

TABLE 1. - ESTIMATED CEREAL HARVEST : SOUTH AUSTRALIA 1960/61

Crop	Total Area	Area for Grain	Yield	Yield per Acre
	Acres	Acres	Bushels	Bushels
Wheat	1,975,000	1,929,000	45,327,000	23.50
Barley	1,556,000	1,508,000	42,665,000	28.29
Oats	918,000	514,000	12,097,000	23.54
Field Peas	28,000	26,000	405,000	15.58
			Tons	Tons
Cereal Hay	175,000	-	290,000	1.66

SEASONAL CONDITIONS

The preliminary estimate for average rainfall over agricultural areas for the first three months of the growing season (April to June 1960) is 7.07 inches compared with 1.09 inches in the previous year. The good opening rains followed by satisfactory conditions for the remainder of the growing season largely contributed to the subsequent high crop yields.

Preliminary figures for average rainfall over agricultural areas for the period April to November 1960 total 15.58 inches. During the same period 6.28 inches fell in 1959 and the April-November mean for the 55 years ended 1959, is 12.73 inches.

2.

CEREAL HARVESTS 1956/57 TO 1960/61

Details for individual crops in Tables 2-5 show the forecast for 1960/61 compared with the actual harvests for the four previous seasons. Following upon the abnormally low yields in 1959/60, current estimates indicate that the 1960/61 harvest will establish some new production records.

WHEAT The estimated area of wheat for grain for the 1960/61 season (1,929,000 acres) is the highest since 2,063,034 acres were sown in 1948/49. The anticipated yield of 45,327,000 bushels of wheat is the largest since the record harvest of 48,093,102 bushels in 1931/32. In that year 4,071,370 acres were sown for grain compared with the estimate of 1,929,000 acres for 1960/61.

The anticipated yield per acre of 23.50 bushels exceeds the record of 22.76 bushels established in 1958/59.

TABLE 2. - WHEAT: AREA AND PRODUCTION, SOUTH AUSTRALIA

Particulars	Unit	1956/57	1957/58	1958/59	1959/60	Estimate 1960/61
Total Area	Acres	1,480,676	1,411,406	1,459,859	1,605,420	1,975,000
Area for Grain	Acres	1,438,289	1,331,302	1,407,413	1,549,499	1,929,000
Yield	Bushels	31,431,547	14,913,988	32,032,232	11,928,966	45,327,000
Yield per Acre	Bushels	21.85	11.20	22.76	7.70	23.50

BARLEY The estimates for 1960/61 indicate that the area sown for grain (1,508,000 acres) and the yield (42,665,000 bushels) will exceed the records established in 1958/59. The anticipated yield per acre in 1960/61 of 28.29 bushels is approximately the same as that achieved in 1958/59.

TABLE 3. - BARLEY: AREA AND PRODUCTION, SOUTH AUSTRALIA

Particulars	Unit	1956/57	1957/58	1958/59	1959/60	Estimate 1960/61
Total Area	Acres	1,248,648	1,271,434	1,367,059	1,325,689	1,556,000
Area for Grain	Acres	1,221,737	1,211,762	1,332,473	1,289,936	1,508,000
Yield	Bushels	34,002,876	17,551,669	37,664,492	11,857,192	42,665,000
Yield per Acre	Bushels	27.83	14.48	28.27	9.19	28.29

OATS The estimated yield of oats for 1960/61 of 12,097,000 bushels exceeds the record production of 11,992,155 bushels achieved in 1958/59. The anticipated yield per acre for 1960/61 of 23.54 bushels, compares favourably with the high yield of 24.93 bushels per acre recorded in 1958/59.

TABLE 4. - OATS: AREA AND PRODUCTION, SOUTH AUSTRALIA

Particulars	Unit	1956/57	1957/58	1958/59	1959/60	Estimate 1960/61
Total Area	Acres	843,481	874,908	845,052	813,426	918,000
Area for Grain	Acres	427,192	427,366	481,076	505,499	514,000
Yield	Bushels	8,318,296	3,422,525	11,992,155	2,504,497	12,097,000
Yield per acre	Bushels	19.47	8.01	24.93	4.95	23.54

3.

CEREAL HAY The estimated area for cereal hay (175,000 acres) is the lowest since 1956/57 but the anticipated yield (290,000 tons) and yield per acre (1.66 tons) are above the average for recent years.

TABLE 5. - CEREAL HAY: AREA AND PRODUCTION, SOUTH AUSTRALIA

Particulars	Unit	1956/57	1957/58	1958/59	1959/60	Estimate 1960/61
Area	Acres	150,196	197,871	228,329	187,292	175,000
Yield	Tons	230,160	182,606	380,019	129,740	290,000
Yield per Acre	Tons	1.53	0.92	1.66	0.69	1.66

FIELD PEAS It is estimated that the area planted for grain during the 1960/61 season was 26,000 acres. The yield forecast is 405,000 bushels representing an average of 15.58 bushels per acre. In 1959/60 58,449 bushels were obtained from 26,907 acres. Record production is 632,795 bushels (20.75 bushels per acre) achieved in 1956/57.

Bureau of Census & Statistics,
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24th January, 1961.

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